



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 20, 2004

H.R. 2010

An act to protect the voting rights of members of the armed services in elections for the delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 15, 2004*

H.R. 2010 would amend Public Law 95-556, which provides the Territory of American Samoa with a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Specifically, the legislation would revise the voting procedures used for the election of American Samoa's delegate. Currently, the delegate must be elected by a majority of votes, and a run-off election is held 14 days after the initial vote if no candidate receives a majority. Under H.R. 2010, only a plurality would be required and no run-off election would be held. However, if the legislature of American Samoa were to provide for primary elections for the election of the delegate, then the delegate would be elected by a majority of votes cast in a subsequent general election. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2010 would have no impact on the federal budget. The legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that enforce the constitutional rights of individuals. CBO has determined that H.R. 2010 would fall within that exclusion because it would protect the voting rights of absentee voters, including members of the armed forces. Therefore, CBO has not reviewed the bill for mandates.

On May 21, 2004, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2010, as passed by the House Committee on Resources on May 5, 2004. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.